Board in the matter of realisation of outstanding dues, thefts etc;

(c) whether despite such instructions/advices no effective steps have been taken by Uttar Pradesh Electricity Board;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what further action is contemplated by the Central Government now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTTONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) In order to improve their management and to reduce the rate of electricity thefts, outstanding electricity dues from various sections of consumers, guidelines have been issued to all power utilities including the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board which *inter-alia,* include tamper proof meter boxes sealed with number seals, setting up of vigilance squads, conducting of surprise raids to check theft of energy and launching of prosecution against persons found indulging in the theft of energy.

(b) to (d) According to the Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board, general representations/complaints regarding theft of power and revenue arrears are received by the Board from time to time. The Board is reported to have taken action against those found guilty of power theft which included (i) disconnection of power supply, (ii) lodging of FIR and arresting/prosecuting of defaulters, (iii)' penalising consumers by billing three times the normal rates of power supply, and (iv) taking disciplinary action against Officers/staff of the Board found negligent.

(e) Apart from the guidelines referred to in reply to part (a) of the question, the theft of energy has also been made cognizable offence under the provisions of Section 39 of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 to deal with the offence of theft of energy more effectively. In addition, an incentive scheme has been introduced to motivate State Electricity Boards to reduce their Transmission and Distribution losses.

गुजरात में विद्युन्मय गांवों की संख्या

471. **श्री राम सिंह राठवा :** क्या विद्युत और गैर-पारम्परिक ऊर्जा स्रोत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गत पांच वर्षों के दौरान गुजरात में कितने गांवों का विद्युतीकरण कर दिया गया है ;

(ख) उक्त गांवों के लिए कितनी धनराशि आवंटित की गई और उन पर कितना व्यय किया गया है ; और

(ग) सरकार के पास गांवों के विद्युतीकरण की चालू योजनायें कौन-कौन सी हैं ?

विद्युत और गैर-पारम्परिक ऊर्जा स्रोत मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कल्पनाथ राय) : (क) से (ग) गुजरात बिजली बोर्ड द्वारा सूचित किया गया है कि विगत के पांच वर्षों अर्थात् 1986-87 से 1990-91 के दौरान 17.49 करोड़ रुपए के अनुमानित व्यय से 1166 गांवों का विद्युतीकरण किया गया है । उपरोक्त गांवों का विद्युतीकरण किए जाने पर, 222 गांव जो कि जलमग्न स्कीम के अन्दर आते हैं और ये आबाद भी नहीं हैं आदि जैसे कारणों से इनका विद्युतीकरण किया जाना व्यावहारिक नहीं पाया गया है । इन गांवों को छोड़कर, गुजरात बिजली बोर्ड ने गुजरात में सभी गांवों का शत-प्रतिशत विद्युतीकरण कर दिए जाने की घोषणा कर दी है ।